

Senate Library Committee

Annual Report

2001-2002

submitted by Karen A.J. Miller, Chair

In April 2001 the Oakland University Senate passed a resolution calling for adherence to three principles for Kresge Library's funding. These principles were as follows:

- 1) Comply with NCA recommendations of 1989, 1994, and 1999 that Kresge Library should receive automatic annual increases to its base budget to compensate for library inflation rates
- 2) Money appropriated for new academic programs be delivered to Kresge Library immediately after Board of Trustees approval of the program and before admission of students into the program
- 3) To keep Kresge Library in compliance with the goals of the Building for 2010 campaign, the library budget of FY10 should be double the current budget. This increase should occur in regular annual increments, including additions to the materials, personnel, and operations segments of the budget.

The philosophy of this resolution was to be contained in the budget recommendations for the 2001-2002 academic year. However, turmoil within the university administration during the summer of 2001 led to the omission of any budget increases for the library. In response, the Senate Library Committee met in during the summer and appointed a delegation to present the library's case to President Russi. (This committee consisted of the chair of the Senate Library Committee and one of the student members of the committee; in addition, the President of the Student Congress was also invited to attend the meeting with Dr. Russi.) On a separate occasion, Dean Didier met with President Russi to discuss budgetary problems. As a result of these meetings, the base budget of Kresge Library was increased for the first time since 1994 by \$200,000 for the 2001-2002 academic year.

The receipt of a substantial budget increase was fortuitous. For the past several years, Kresge Library has compensated for an absence of budget increases by spending increasing amounts of money out of its endowment income balances, significantly reducing those balances. This reliance on the endowment balances to purchase basic core materials cannot continue. The new monies allocated to the library were used to begin to address a number of critical needs emerged in the Fall of 2001.

Inflation had raised the total costs of journal subscriptions by \$60,000 for the 2001-2002 academic year.

The use of aging computer equipment in the public workstations created an environment where students could not access assigned websites or e-reserves.

Contractual agreements with the software vendor required maintenance of the Voyager online system, including the purchase of a new server.

The use of aging computer and photocopier equipment had substantially reduced the efficiency of the library staff.

It became apparent that although the infusion of \$200,000 into the library budget had averted the crises, it did not provide a solution to the long term problems facing the library collection. The expansion of the size of the undergraduate student body and the introduction of new graduate programs have generated new demands. These demands will require continuing increases in both the collections portion of the budget and the size of the staff.

The second half of this academic year has been spent identifying what the Library needs to do to provide appropriate service to the instructional units of the university. As part of that effort, the library will survey the faculty at the beginning of the next academic year. It is already obvious that the growth of the university requires that the library expand in several areas:

Gain access to key electronic data bases that are considered essential for undergraduate and graduate work in areas where Oakland grants degrees (for example, in education and engineering).

Upgrade public computers and printers in the labs, public areas, and staff offices.

Replace public furnishings on the third floor.

Continue to accommodate for inflation in collections development (for all print materials)

Hire two additional librarians, an archivist, and a staff member.

These needs of Kresge Library are in serious conflict with the current budgetary situation. The university administration has continued its plan to expand the size of the undergraduate population by 33%. The University Senate has continued to authorize new undergraduate and graduate programs. In the light of this commitment to expansion, Kresge Library must continue to maintain its serial holdings and expand its collection and services. This will require continued annual increases to the base budget for the foreseeable future.